

Library Board of Directors
Somers Public Library
March 7, 2022

Members present: Lisa Gladysz, Gene Grayson, Mike Gruber, Jack Kertenis, Kathryn Lerz, Ann Levesque,
Andy Phillips, Bob Socha, Shirley Warner

Also present: Joanne Nichting, Library Director

Chairperson Andy Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Minutes from the February 14, 2022 meeting were presented and reviewed. J. Kertenis moved to approve the minutes; seconded by S. Warner. Approved.

First & Second Audience to Citizens: None

Correspondence: None

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was distributed by G. Grayson. He reported that the investment assets have dropped since the beginning of the year, but not by as much as the S&P 500 and other market indices. He believes John Ruocco is going a good job managing the Board's funds to minimize losses where possible. He also reviewed the activity in the Webster and People's United bank accounts. The treasurer's report will be filed for audit.

Financial Business:

The February 2022 budget to actual report was presented by J. Nichting. She reviewed the expense line items and income summary for the month. She noted that almost all of the electricity budget has been expended and that the cost of oil has increased dramatically. The report will be filed for audit.

Committee Reports:

Board members volunteered for committees as follows:

Budget – A. Phillips, G. Grayson, K. Lerz

Investment – A. Phillips, G. Grayson, J. Kertenis, S. Warner

Policy – S. Warner, A. Phillips, A. Levesque

Personnel – L. Gladysz, A. Phillips

Technology – M. Gruber, L. Gladysz, A. Phillips

Building – B. Socha, M. Gruber, J. Kertenis

Friends of the Library Liaison - TBD

Old Business:

Alarm System – J. Nichting informed the Board that she received a quote for \$19,868 to connect the library to the Somers Public Schools' lockdown system and install security speakers. She asked Sonitrol to remove the

speakers and to improve upon their quote. The configurations of the lockdown button and panic buttons also need to be revised as they do not operate as desired. J. Nichting will continue to work with Sonitrol to resolve.

ARPA Grant – J. Nichting explained to the Board the challenges encountered with some of the ARPA grant purchases. While the intent of the grant was good, the limited scope of the allowable purchases was not all that practical.

New Business:

FY23 Budget – A. Phillips, G. Grayson, and J. Nichting reported on the budget meeting with the Board of Selectmen. At the meeting, the Town CFO was adamant that the Board of Trustees contribute some of its endowment income towards the operating budget of the library. Discussion about the endowment policies and restrictions, along with the desires of the donors who contributed to the endowment funds, ensued. In light of the extraordinary inflation and fuel price increases impacting the next fiscal year, B. Socha made a motion to transfer \$14,000 of endowment income to the town as a one-time payment to offset operating expenses for the 2022-23 fiscal year. K. Lerz seconded. 7 votes in favor, 1 against, 1 abstention. Motion passed.

B. Socha mentioned that the American flag at the library was recently replaced. He also noted that the American Legion takes care of the flags in Town and relies on donations. He made a motion for the Board to donate \$50 to the American Legion to support their flag efforts. Seconded by J. Kertenis. Motion passed.

B. Socha also informed the Board that the sprinkler system inspection was completed. All went well but one pipe was found to have corroded and had a pin-hole leak. The pipe was temporarily patched and the vendor will be back with a permanent fix. A few small deficiencies in the system were identified which will be noted in the inspection report.

Director's Report:

J. Nichting briefly elaborated on her written report, which outlined all the activities and maintenance during the month of February. The report was accepted as presented.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm. Next meeting will be April 4, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Gladysz

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING